

Human Services Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Attendance:

Commissioners: Bob Galan, Ed Horne, Peter Powell and Yvonne Senturia

Absent: Dick Sallick, Laura Fishman

Staff: Sara Heath, Elaine Daignault, Lauren Rosenkranz and Sue Pfister

Minutes: The Minutes of July 19, 2016 were approved.

Guest: Colleen Palmer, Superintendent of Westport Public Schools, spoke about her first few months on the job and the recent Connecticut court decision mandating full equality among all of the state's school districts.

Old Business:

CSA Enhancement Committee – Sue Pfister: In a holding pattern until architect is ready with plans. Design and implementation based on \$3.9 mill budget and CSA Enhancement Committee list of priorities. Then will schedule community meetings and focus groups with stakeholders. Meeting with Lynn Goldberg to discuss naming opportunities and fundraising.

Commission on People with Disabilities – Sara Heath: Press release distributed. Looking for people interested in serving, as well as potential new adult clients with disabilities.

Hiawatha Lane Extension Proposed Development– Ed Horne: Planning and Zoning meeting rejected the proposal on several specific grounds. Awaiting possible appeal from developer.

Barbara Fund: Ed will talk to Barbara about how she would like the fund used. Will need to then discuss how to present to the community when soliciting donations.

Department Reports:

Mentor Program/Positive Youth Development – Lauren Rosenkranz: Twenty five students matched with adult or high school mentor. Offering friendship and consistency in life and emotional support via weekly visits at school. Clients referred by school, parent or self-referral.

Community Service Corps – Lauren Rosenkranz: Thirty five 6th – 8th grade students volunteer in the community one afternoon a week for ten weeks. They work in town agencies, assist teachers in child care sites, assist in the pool at YMCA, and perform administrative duties at other sites. Wait list for the Fall program. Have to reapply in the Spring, with first priority to the Fall waitlist.

Positive Youth Development Parenting Education – Lauren Rosenkranz: 4 meetings during the school year. First on October 25 will be opioid presentation by a drug specialist, with publicity in and to the community.

Health, Wellness and Positive Youth Development Advisory Council – Lauren Rosenkranz: partnership between Westport Public Schools, Westport PTA and the Westport Department of Human Services. Provides guidance and recommendations, with the mission of promoting the

positive development of children and youth in families, in schools, among peers and in the community. Meetings at least four times yearly.

Energy Assistance 2016 – Sarah Heath: Letter went out to existing clients, with meetings to be scheduled after October 1st. Oil clients first, with deliveries to start in November. Meetings with electricity and gas clients will start November 1st.

Back to School Program 2016: spearheaded by Susan Stefansen with funds from Salvation Army (189 \$30 Payless gift cards). Donations purchased other gift cards to buy school supplies for more kids. 189 income-eligible kids in 112 households served.

Camperships 2016: spearheaded by Patty Haberstroh. Placed 112 kids from 69 Westport families in full or partial scholarship spots at Camp Compo, Wakeman, Continuing Ed, Mahackeno, Peak Performance Camp and some sleepaway camps. Some department funds, some United Way and awards from Parks and Rec and camps to our clients. All \$20,797.00 raised from PTAs, foundations, both rotaries and generous community donors were also used.

United Way grant for childcare – Child First - offered scholarships for after school program at Westport YMCA (50% discount and transportation provided from schools). Did not continue departmental after school program at Hales Court, as they are running their own program this school year.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Senturia, Human Services Commission member